

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-15 are pending; Claims 1-8 are canceled; and Claims 9-15 are newly added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that now new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Abstract was objected to; Claims 1 and 5-8 were objected to; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Morgan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,274,864); Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bruno (U.S. Pat. No. 5,405,107); Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Verbeke et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,519,229, hereinafter Verbeke '229); Claim 4/1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morgan; Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bruno; Claim 4/1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Verbeke '229; and Claims 2, 3, 4/2, and 4/3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Verbeke '229 and further in view of Verbeke (U.S. Pat. No. 5,751,001, hereafter Verbeke '001).

With regard to the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract has been amended herewith to remove the noted informalities. Regarding the objections to Claims 1 and 5-8, it is respectfully submitted that these objections have been rendered moot, as Claims 1 and 5-8 are canceled herewith.

With regard to the outstanding claim rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of Claims 1-8.

Independent Claim 9, from which Claims 10-15 depend, is directed to a screen for converting x-rays into light photons. The screen includes a panel and an active layer for the conversion of x-rays into light photons located on one face of the panel, wherein the panel includes a rigid foam plate that is transparent to x-rays, a first layer of composite material

located on a first face of the rigid foam plate and a second layer of composite material located on a second face of the rigid foam plate, parallel to the first face.

Morgan relates to a composite litter board and Bruno relates to a radar transmitting structure. As Claim 9 is directed to a screen for converting x-rays into light photons, it is respectfully submitted that Morgan and Bruno are not relevant to the subject matter of Claim 9.

Verbeke '229 and Verbeke '001 relate to a cassette for photo-stimulable luminescence (PSL) radiography. This cassette includes a flat rigid base and a cap for the base.¹ A coating of PSL material covers the upper surface of the flat rigid base.² The x-rays are incident on the coating PSL material, through the cap of the base. The x-rays do not pass through the flat rigid base, and there is no need for the flat rigid base of Verbeke '229 and Verbeke '001 to be transparent to x-rays, as a cassette for PSL radiography is used to get an x-ray radiograph, which is later read with another device to create a digital image (indirect reading).

By contrast, Claim 9 recites that x-rays pass through the panel and that the panel is transparent to x-rays. Through the claimed configuration, a digital image is obtained as soon as the x-ray radiograph is obtained (direct reading).³ Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9-15 patentably distinguish over both Verbeke '229 and Verbeke '001.

¹ See, e.g., Verbeke '001, Abstract.

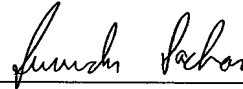
² See, e.g., Verbeke '229, Abstract and Verbeke '001, Abstract.

³ Specification, page 2, line 27 – page 3, line 10 and page 5, lines 7-8.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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